

Texas, living in Dallas, San Antonio, and Port Arthur, Mr. Seale's family finally relocated to Oakland, California, when Mr. Seale was eight years old.

Mr. Seale attended Berkeley High School, where he started to become politically active. In 1955, Mr. Seale dropped out of high school and joined the United States Air Force. After his military service, Mr. Seale worked as a sheet metal mechanic while earning his high school diploma at night.

After earning his high school diploma, Mr. Seale went on to attend Merritt College, where he intended to study engineering. However, during his time at Merritt College, he began to take a deep interest in politics and black history, and joined the Afro-American Association (AAA), a campus group advocating for black separatism. It was through the AAA that Mr. Seale met Mr. Huey P. Newton, a kindred spirit. They quickly became friends and their political activism deepened as they were inspired by the teachings of Malcolm X.

During this time, Mr. Seale was also inspired to give back to his community, spending time teaching youths about black history and personal responsibility at the North Oakland Neighborhood Anti-Poverty Center.

By October 1966, Mr. Seale and Mr. Newton were ready to organize their beliefs and put them into practice, and they formed the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. Originally formed to protect the African-American community in Oakland from police brutality, the Black Panthers rejected the nonviolent approach of the mainstream Civil Rights Movement. The Black Panthers also focused on serving the community, cooking free breakfast for children before school, distributing clothing, and teaching classes on politics and economics.

A few years later, in 1970, Mr. Seale was arrested in Chicago during a protest at the Democratic National Convention, and he was ultimately sentenced to four years in prison for contempt of court. After his release from prison in 1973, Mr. Seale renounced violence as a means to an end and decided to run for Mayor of Oakland. He finished second out of nine candidates.

In 1974, Mr. Seale resigned as Chairman of the Black Panther Party, having grown tired of politics. He has remained active in the community, writing books and working to improve social services and educational opportunities in black neighborhoods.

On a personal note, I am deeply grateful for "the Chairman's" brilliance and leadership. He was a mentor, a colleague, but most importantly, a true friend. My late beloved mother, Ms. Mildred Massey, was one of Bobby's strongest supporters and believed in him and the Black Panther Party as the "vanguard of the movement." He taught us the importance of grassroots organizing by knocking on doors, walking precincts, and phone banking to communicate our position on issues and most importantly, how to be a true public servant.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District celebrates the extraordinary life and service of Mr. Bobby Seale and wishes him a very happy birthday and a life that continues to be filled with peace and happiness and fulfilled by the great work and leadership he continues to provide.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. WILLIAM "BILL" KENNETH LAZZERINI, JR.

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. William "Bill" Kenneth Lazzerini, Jr. for receiving the 2016 Kern County Person of the Year award.

This year, Mr. Lazzerini was honored as the 2016 Kern County Person of the Year at the Kern County Fair in Bakersfield, California. This award is given to members of the community who have done outstanding community work. As a husband, father, grandfather, and successful business owner, Mr. Lazzerini exemplifies the values, beliefs, and kindness Kern County stands for by consistently giving back to the community. Throughout his life, he has supported local charities and causes such as the Ronald McDonald House, California State University Bakersfield Foundation, and the Bakersfield College Helmet Club.

Mr. Lazzerini was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley where he attended Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, California. Mr. Lazzerini later attended the University of Southern California where he excelled as a collegiate athlete, winning multiple College World Series while playing baseball.

After graduating college, Mr. Lazzerini became a jewelry runner in the jewelry district in downtown Los Angeles. In 1971 his father purchased a beer distributor in Bakersfield, and a year later he was asked to help run Advance Beverage Company, which is continuously recognized as one of the premier Anheuser-Busch distributors in the Nation. Since Advance Beverage Company was created in 1971, it has gone from thirteen employees to over one-hundred-fifty and sales have increased from 450,000 cases per year to over five million cases per year. After forty-five years of successful ownership of the largest beer wholesaler in Kern County, Mr. Lazzerini and his company have become staples in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Mr. William "Bill" Kenneth Lazzerini, Jr. on being named the 2016 Kern County Person of the Year.

HONORING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NIAGARA ORGANIZING ALLIANCE FOR HOPE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize NOAH, Niagara Organizing Alliance for Hope, on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary and to extend deepest appreciation for this grassroots organization's tireless efforts on behalf of those in need in Niagara County.

In 2005, a group of faith and neighborhood leaders came together to make their community a better place focusing particular attention to the economic struggles of the inner city of Niagara Falls. Today, NOAH is a faith-based, urban, suburban and racially diverse commu-

nity organizing coalition of over 22 congregations, labor unions and community organizations that collaboratively work for positive social change in the city of Niagara Falls and Niagara County.

NOAH is also an affiliate of Gamaliel, a national network of faith based organizations whose mission is to empower ordinary people to effectively participate in the political, environmental social and economic decisions affecting their lives.

With its core values rooted in the principles of democracy and social justice for all, NOAH has worked on job creation, education, economic development, parks and public transportation, winning significant victories in all.

NOAH's work to bring attention to workforce racial disparities across the region culminated at a standing room only public meeting this year with sister organization VOICE-Buffalo that featured U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez. A Buffalo native who remains deeply connected to our community, Secretary Perez brought a very unique perspective on techniques for greater collaboration on critical issues of workforce opportunity and development.

Greater collaboration was clearly evidenced when in August we joined with NOAH, Laborers' Local 91, Iron Workers' Local 9, Catholic Charities of Buffalo and the City of Niagara Falls to announce a federal grant to support the implementation of an innovative Pre-Apprenticeship Program to address the barriers too many people of color face in pursuing a career in the building trades.

This grant fuels the momentum started during the community discussions on workforce development with U.S. Labor Secretary Perez. Through this unique collaborative effort, faith-based, labor, government and social service agencies are working together to provide new opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to begin a stable and rewarding career path.

And while the work will and must continue, those whose efforts have contributed to NOAH's accomplishments and achievements gather on October 6th under the leadership of NOAH Board President, Rev. JoAnne Scott, to celebrate ten years of service and solidarity.

Throughout this evening of praise and commendation to continue the work, there will also be a presentation of awards to those individuals whose contributions have advanced the mission of NOAH including Sister Beth Brosmer, Deputy Carl Cain, Rev. Lora Allen, Richard Palladino and Rev. Harvey L. Kelley.

Since January 2010, Sr. Beth Brosmer, OSF, has served as the executive director of Heart, Love & Soul Food Pantry & Dining Room in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Working almost seven years at Heart, Love & Soul she continues in a servant-leadership role as a Sister of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity where she continues to work harder, inspire more and expand needed services to those who need so much.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Carlton Cain has served with distinction for more than 25 years as a member of the Niagara Falls Police Department. His assignments have included patrol, street crimes, housing, internal affairs, community relations and co-director of the Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy. He brought the Game Changers program to the Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club which received federal recognition by President Barack Obama.